

EXHIBIT NO. 1DATE: 4-22-2009BILL NO. HJ 39**Roy Brown****From:** Travis Hoffman [thoffman@summitilc.org]**Sent:** Wednesday, April 22, 2009 2:19 PM**To:** brown.roy@bresnan.net; murphter5@yahoo.com; ccwhi@blackfoot.net; davelewis@aol.com; csjuneau@3rivers.net; Cliff@larsenusa.com; trudischmidt@q.com**Subject:** Please Support HJ 39**Importance:** High

Hello Chairman Brown and members of the Senate Public Health, Welfare, and Safety Committee,

I am writing to you on behalf of Montana's four Independent Living Centers (LIFTT, NCILS, MILP, and Summit ILC) to go on record as supporters of HJ 39 and to ask you all for your support of the resolution to request that an interim committee study the development of additional community services for individual with developmental disabilities who also have a mental illness or other certain behaviors. Anytime someone can receive services in the community as opposed to being transported to the state institution or becoming entangled in the criminal justice system it is better for everyone involved. There is a lesser cost to the state in term of health care costs and the situation isn't as exacerbated for the individual because they can receive services in more familiar surroundings without the need of being involuntarily committed or transported as a criminal. Often times when people are committed, they lose their supports in the community so when it comes time for them to go home they have nowhere to go and so, end up remaining institutionalized far longer than they ever should have been or needed to be. Having these types of services available at the community level will help to decrease the unnecessary long-term institutionalization of these individuals and allow them to continue living in their own communities and continue to receive the lower cost community supports they need.

Thank you all for your time, I hope you all can support this study and I apologize that I will not be able to be at the hearing today to provide this testimony in person.

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